

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W

-----021949Z 033443 /43

R 021115Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9135

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR GB DM

SUBJECT: RAID ON COTONOU-- BONGO PROTESTS TO UN

REF: LIBREVILLE 0610 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING UP EARLIER PROMISE (REFTEL), PRESIDENT BONGO HAS SENT TELEGRAM TO US SEC GEN WALDHEIM PROTESTING SECURITY COUNCIL COMMISSIONS REPORT ON COTONOU MERCENARY RAID AND DANYING ANY GOG INVOLVMENT.

2. TELEGRAM, WHICH WAS RELEASE TO GABONESE MEDIA APRIL1, CONTAINS FOLLOWING LANGUAGE: QUOTE: I WAS STUPEFIED TO LEARN CONCLUSION OF SECURITY COUCNIL COMMISSION CONCERNING BENIN PROBLEM. I EXPRESS MY PROFOUND DISILLUSIONMENT OVER LEVITY WITH WHICH SO CALLED INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED.

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I MUST REARRIRM THAT MY COUNTRY HAS NEVER BEEN INVOLVED FROM NEAR OR FAR WITH THIS PRETENDED AGGRESSION. END QUOTE.

3. BONGOS TELEGRAM ALSO REQUESTS UN SEC GEN TO FURNISH HIM ALL EVIDENCE GATHERED BY COMMISSION. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS, SEC GEN HAS PASSED ON THIS REQUEST TO SECURITY

COUNCIL WHICH SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS BENIN REPORT NEXT WEEK.

4. COMMENT: TELEGRAM TO UN SEC GEN IS FIRST TIME BONGO HAS FLATLY DENIED ANY GABONESE INVOLVEMENT IN COTONOU AFFAIR. HIS PREVIOUS DEFENSE WAS TO HEAP RIDICULE ON ACCUSERS AND TO POINT OUT SEEMING INCONSISTENCIES IN ACCOUNTS OF RAID. WHILE NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE OPINIONS IN SECURITY COUNCIL, TELEGRAM DOES CORRECTLY POINT OUT THAT ACCUSED COUNTRIES HAVE THUS FAR HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO SEE OR REBUT EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

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